

LEGISLATIVE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AUTISM
Task Force on Transitional Services & Supports

January 11, 2007

Summary of Emerging Recommendations for Further Consideration / Refinement

Correlating to each of the seven major gaps identified in the Task Force's work, here are preliminary notes taken from the January 11 meeting. They will be the subject of further discussion and refinement February 1, 2007 at the third and final Task Force meeting.

1. Lack of Interagency Collaboration and Coordination

Possible recommendations to consider:

Super agency/case manager model

Create a single database over a lifetime

Require a minimum integration of school district and regional center services and systems of care

Encourage inclusion of employment agency functions integrating Dept. of Rehabilitations and EDD when appropriate

Public/private collaboratives

Explore expanding transition services to earlier than 14 years old

Multi-agency case management models

Incentives for collaboration: state grants a 5% allocation per year over 3 or 5 years based on local agencies actual spending for this population. Flexible money—can be saved from year to year to use for program design, etc.

Easier and more transparent access for parents to information

Allow permissive expansion to include ASD spectrum persons (Create an adolescent equivalent of Early Start? With a means test and sliding fee scale based on ability to pay

2. Lack of Life Skills and Social Competency/Vocational Programs & Pathways

Possible recommendations to consider:

Explore possible 5 year high school program for ASD students:
5th year for Special Ed students to work on vocation path; 5th year for non-Spec Ed ASD students to work on socialization/behavioral transitions to college or the workplace

Explore job coach model for Aspersers' young adults and design employer supports specifically for this population, include evaluation measures to assure replication.

Initiate a defined program and role for community colleges, CSU and UC with ASD students

Test the use of microenterprise and tax credits for job retention

Create Incentives for businesses and employers to participate in local business advisory groups to Supported Employment agencies to help find new jobs. Ask employers to speak to other businesses about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. Reward employers with incentives (recognition via PSAs, awards, etc.)

3. Lack of Services for Non-Regional Center ASD Population

Identify the need for interpreters in current programs to assure better access

Ask regional centers to account for the number of cases turned away w/ ASD

Explore demystifying the confusion between mental health and ASD's inclusion/exclusion

Advocate a model testing expansion of EPSDT to age 21 for the purposes of providing comprehensive developmental services

One stop centers regionally for ASD population and caregivers for lifetime "transitional" services (e.g., skill development, job referral, job retention, etc.)

4. Public Awareness/ Community Acceptance of ASD Adults

Establish a statewide public education/awareness campaign imbued with positive messages, emphasizing the many faces of Autism, fighting stereotypes

Provide a state website/ 1-800 number designed to inform, help figure out if professional referral is needed, where local resources and immediate help are

5. Lack of Supportive Housing Plans and Programs

Adapt local Housing Plans to include some reference to the housing needs of this population

Review the use of the On Lok (San Francisco-based) model for this population which integrates revenue streams and serves the broader community as well as the residents

Encourage Trust Fund development for financing supported housing (use existing state financing incentives to assist public/private partnerships)

6. Personal Safety and the Criminal Justice System

Design and distribute specialized training curriculum for ALL elements of the criminal justice system

Encourage the prototype development of local evidentiary protocols to assist in the prosecution of abuse cases

Ask the Judicial Council to review its forms and procedures to assure no barriers for this population in utilizing the judicial system

7. Medical Care Issues

Establish an interagency task force to identify medical policy issues as it relates to the ASD population

Promote the development of prototypes for quality assurance mechanisms to review this population over time

Study the use of medications and due process protections for this population

Study the dental health needs of this population and assure adequate access tailored to the ASD population to existing programs, especially in childhood and adolescence